

rate single program transport stream extracted from the statistically multiplexed MPEG transport stream are input at the constant bit rate as soon as possible after a specified time interval before they are to be decoded — preferably at least a fixed number of seconds prior to the decode time. The constant bit rate single program transport stream is transferred to the decoder when needed to be decoded, and in the event of buffer overflow B-type pictures are replaced with null B-type pictures until the overflow ceases, and the prior picture is repeated by the decoder.